



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 19 December 2007

Current Nationwide



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- The Times Online reports that the personal details of three million UK learner drivers have been lost in Iowa. The UK Transport Secretary said that the data was housed on a hard drive in the Iowa City offices of Pearson Driving Assessments Ltd., a company employed by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. The Information Commissioner had said the case did not appear to present “a substantial risk” to individuals. (See item [10](#))
- According to the Associated Press, an error by two air traffic controllers caused a military jet and a commuter plane to fly within 3.17 miles of each other over northern Illinois. Minimum spacing between planes is 5 miles horizontally or 1,000 feet vertically; the Federal Aviation Administration said that planes were never in danger of colliding and that an investigation is ongoing. (See item [12](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 18, Associated Press* – (Oklahoma) **Oklahoma still in the dark after storm.** More than 88,000 homes and businesses in Oklahoma remained without power on Tuesday, more than a week after an ice storm plunged them into darkness. Utility crews estimated that crews would have power restored by late Wednesday or Thursday. Meanwhile, overnight temperatures in the state in the past week have dipped into the teens. Many residents have a new problem to rival dwindling temperatures: dwindling bank accounts. Some have spent their money to stay in hotels, thinking power at home

would be restored within a day or two, or depleted their funds by stocking up before the storm on food that has now spoiled. “We’ve had people using generators who ran out of money for fuel to operate the generators,” said the chairman of the American Red Cross of Central Oklahoma. Oklahoma Gas & Electric, the state’s largest electric utility, set up temporary walk-up stations in nine central Oklahoma cities for customers to report power failures.

Source: <http://www.thestate.com/370/story/260923.html>

2. *December 17, Reuters* – (Alaska) **Kuparuk pipeline leak spills oil-water mixture.** A pipeline leak has spilled 4,284 gallons of an oil-water mixture at the ConocoPhillips-operated Kuparuk field on Alaska’s North Slope, state officials said on Monday. The spill was discovered early Sunday morning, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation said. Three drill sites that feed into the affected pipeline were shut to aid in the response, a ConocoPhillips spokeswoman said. Normal combined production from the sites is 12,000 barrels a day, she said. “Normal production should be restored within about a week,” she said. Preliminary investigation showed that the leak came from a small hole beneath the pipe’s insulation. “It appears to be isolated external corrosion,” the spokeswoman said. The pipeline, 24 inches in diameter, carries a mixture of oil, produced water and natural gas, said the spill prevention and emergency response manager for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUSN1744176720071218>

3. *December 17, Baltimore Business Journal* – (Maryland) **Power company seeks permit for southern Maryland plant.** Competitive Power Ventures Inc., a power plant developer and manager, is seeking environmental permits for a natural gas fuel generating plant. The company wants to build the plant in St. Charles, Maryland, in an industrial area previously permitted for electric generation. Under the proposal, construction could start in 2009 and be completed in 2011. The permit applications have been filed with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. If the plant goes online, it is projected to generate 640 megawatts of power, enough for about 600,000 homes.

Source:

http://baltimore.bizjournals.com/baltimore/stories/2007/12/17/daily9.html?jst=cn_cn_lk

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report.

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *December 17, Platts* – (California) **University of California agrees to pay fine at Los Alamos.** The University of California on December 17 agreed to pay a \$2.8 million fine stemming from security problems discovered at Los Alamos National Laboratory in October 2006, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) said. In

September, the NNSA imposed a \$3 million fine on the university after classified information from Los Alamos was discovered in a trailer park during a drug raid. Under the agreement, the university will pay \$2.8 million and accept responsibility for the incident, NNSA said. The university also agreed to forgo any further appeals, according to NNSA. The university managed the lab from 1943 until May 2006, when, after a series of security problems, the Department of Energy shifted control to a management consortium called Los Alamos National Security.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/6664157.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined>

5. *December 17, Forest Lake Times* – (Florida) **Nuclear device stolen in Florida returned to police.** A nuclear density tester that was stolen from a truck in Forest Lake, Florida, in September was found on a sidewalk to the Forest Lake City Hall on Monday morning, left by someone who no longer wanted to deal with the device. The device contains highly radioactive material that could pose human harm if damaged or tampered with, police said. Police began their investigation on September 13 when a Toxler Nuclear Gage worth \$7000 was reported stolen from a parked pickup truck. The device, used to measure moisture content and the density of soil and building materials, is owned by Asset Management, a construction company.

Source: <http://forestlaketimes.com/content/view/132/1/>

6. *December 16, Journal News* – (National) **Nuclear plants ordered to report on steps to keep guards awake.** Indian Point and the nation's 103 other nuclear plants have 60 days to show federal regulators what they are doing to keep their security guards from sleeping on the job, as one did in Buchanan in August. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission acted after reports of inattentive security guards at some nuclear power plants raised concerns about procedures and working conditions that may have allowed the lapses. "Several of our licensees have had instances of inattentive security officers," said the director of the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response. "While multiple layers of defense at each site maintained its security, the NRC is concerned that, collectively, these incidents are a sign that some licensees are not giving appropriate attention to the effectiveness of this portion of their security programs." Among the areas that must be addressed, according to the NRC's order, are physical conditions at security posts, such as lighting, temperature, noise and stimuli that may help officers stay alert. Companies' programs to detect and correct behavior such as inattentiveness must be included, as well as efforts to ensure that employees can blow the whistle on those who are not doing their jobs. The operators have until mid-March to deliver the information and planning, and NRC officials said they would then determine whether further regulatory action was needed.

Source:

<http://www.thejournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071216/NEWS03/712160341/1019/NEWS03>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *December 17, Defense News* – (National) **Newer carbines outperform M4 in dust test.** The M4 carbine, the weapon U.S. soldiers depend on in combat, finished last in a recent “extreme dust test” to demonstrate the M4’s reliability compared to three newer carbines. Weapons officials at the Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, exposed Colt Defense LLC’s M4, along with the Heckler & Koch XM8, FNH USA’s Special Operations Forces Combat Assault Rifle and the H&K 416 to sandstorm conditions from late September to late November, firing 6,000 rounds through each test weapon. When the test was completed, ATEC officials found that the M4 performed “significantly worse” than the other three weapons, sources told Army Times. Officials tested 10 each of the four carbine models, firing a total of 60,000 rounds per model. The results of the test were “a wake-up call,” but Army officials continue to stand by the current carbine, said the commander of Program Executive Office Soldier, the command that is responsible for equipping soldiers. But the test results did not sway the Army’s faith in the M4, according to the commander. “Everybody in the Army has high confidence in this weapon,” he said. Lighter and more compact than the M16 rifle, the M4 is more effective for the close confines of urban combat. The Army began fielding the M4 in the mid-1990s.
Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=3256029&C=america>

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *December 18, Athens Review* – (Texas) **Attorney general warns of widespread banking scam.** A new identity theft scheme is targeting Texans and their financial institutions, according to the Texas Attorney General’s Office. Spoof e-mails are directing Amarillo National Bank customers — who have been one of the biggest targets of this latest scam — to call a telephone number and confirm their personal information. Customers who make the call do not actually reach their hometown banker, but instead end up on the telephone with a scam artist who wants to steal their identity. The Office of the Attorney General first learned of the Amarillo National Bank scam when its own employees received a series of e-mails with the subject line: “New Message From Amarillo National Bank.” The message provides a toll-free number for consumers to call and furnish their personal information. However, neither the e-mail nor the telephone number is affiliated with Amarillo National Bank. Texans who receive these types of e-mails or telephone calls should simply delete the message or hang up on the caller.
Source: http://www.athensreview.com/local/local_story_352090015.html
9. *December 17, Computerworld* – (National) **Phishers pinch billions from consumers’ pockets.** More than 3.5 million U.S. adults lost money to phishing scams and online identity theft in the 12-month period that ended in August, a 57 percent increase over the previous year, said a Gartner fraud analyst. About 3.3 percent of the 4,500 Americans polled in August said they had been victimized by a phishing attack and had lost money

in the deal. In 2006, the figure was 2.3 percent. For the first time, bank check and debit card account information dominated the target list of phishers. In 2007, 47 percent of those who lost money said it was through a debit or bank check card, while credit cards accounted for just 32 percent. Even consumers familiar with the 'phishing' concept -- and those remain a minority -- are not necessarily immune from current scams. The constantly changing cycle of new techniques simply makes it that much harder for consumers to recognize what is legitimate and what is illegal. In the 12 months before August 2007, Gartner calculated, estimated phishing losses totaled \$3.2 billion. That was up \$500 million from \$2.8 billion in 2006.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9053323&intsrc=hm_list

10. *December 17, Times Online* – (National; International) **3 million learner drivers' details lost.** The personal details of three million UK learner drivers have been lost in Iowa, the UK Government announced Monday. The UK Transport Secretary told members of Parliament that the data was housed on a hard drive in the Iowa City offices of Pearson Driving Assessments Ltd., a company employed by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. The learner drivers' information went missing when the hard drive was lost in May, she said. The records contained the name of the test applicant, their postal address, and telephone number but no details of any individual's bank account or credit card. The Information Commissioner had said the case did not appear to present "a substantial risk" to individuals.

Source: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article3064090.ece>

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Transportation Sector

11. *December 18, WEWS 5 Cleveland* – (Ohio) **1 dead in crash; Officials worry bridge may collapse.** Officials said 230 homes were evacuated and they feared a bridge could collapse after two crashes in Trumbull County, north of Youngstown, Ohio, early Tuesday. The Ohio State Patrol said that a garbage truck hit a bridge overpass on Route 11 north of the Niles-Vienna overpass before 5 a.m. The crash caused a lot of debris and ruptured a 6-inch gas line. One car went left of center to avoid the debris and hit a tractor-trailer head on. That semi started leaking liquid propane, causing the evacuation. Route 11 was closed between Route 82 and Interstate 80. The gas was shut off about three hours later and the evacuees were told it was safe to go back home. Trumbull County sheriff said he believes the bridge will have to be removed, because a major support beam was badly damaged. Ohio Department of Transportation engineers will have to look over the span.

Source: <http://www.newsnet5.com/news/14879810/detail.html>

12. *December 17, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Military jet, commuter plane came close.** An error by two air traffic controllers caused a military jet and a commuter plane to fly within 3.17 miles of each other over northern Illinois, the Federal Aviation Administration said Monday, arguing that they were never in danger of colliding. The

incident occurred less than a week after a senator called for a federal investigation into the work conditions of Chicago-area air traffic controllers, including whether there are enough to ensure runway safety. Minimum spacing between planes is 5 miles horizontally or 1,000 feet vertically. Authorities are investigating. Controllers in the Chicago region have said they are weary and more error-prone after having to work six-day weeks because staffing levels. Both controllers have been taken off duty and sent for retraining.

Source:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AIR_TRAFFIC_CONTROLLERS?SITE=WIFON&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

13. *December 17, Associated Press* – (National) **Congress seeks passport rule delay.**

Congress is seeking to delay a new security rule requiring passports at all U.S. border crossings next year in hopes of avoiding a repeat of last summer's vacation-killing backlog of passport applications. The Bush administration said Monday it opposed the measure and still plans to go forward with implementing the planned passport rule next summer. The first phase of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, or WHTI, went into effect earlier this year, requiring U.S. travelers returning by plane from Mexico, Canada, and the Caribbean to carry a passport. As a result of the new requirements, demand for passports soared and the State Department issued a record 18.4 million passports in fiscal year 2007, compared to 12.1 million in 2006. As a result, wait times for passports ballooned from four to six weeks to 12 weeks, but they have since returned to normal. In border states, the new laws have also raised concerns that local trade and tourism will suffer. In response, the State Department plans to create passcards which will cost less than half the nearly \$100 charged for a new passport. Lawmakers said Monday that under a major end-of-the-year spending bill to be voted on this week, the border passport rule would be moved back even further, to no earlier than June 1, 2009.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap_travel/20071217/ap_tr_ge/travel_brief_passports;_ylt=AkJvtEJpFsnuRqbh_gsxuLus0NUE

14. *December 17, Providence Journal* – (Rhode Island) **Jet slides off runway as R.I.**

endures its 2nd storm. A US Airways Express airplane carrying 31 passengers and 3 crew members from Philadelphia slid off a T.F. Green Airport runway Sunday, bringing incoming and outgoing flights to a halt on a day that saw 5.6 inches of snow fall at the airport. No injuries were reported by those aboard the flight. Officials assumed the incident was related to the weather, but they do not know for sure. After the incident, the airport closed both runways for about 2½ hours, an airport spokeswoman said.

Source: http://www.projo.com/news/content/storm_act_2_12-17-07_OP89HL2_v23.298f2eb.html#

15. *December 17, Daily Breeze* – (Los Angeles) **LAX Commission says safety can't wait.**

In the wake of a congressional report that blasted Los Angeles International Airport for its high rate of runway incursions, airport commissioners Monday called for immediate measures to heighten safety on the north airfield. In the meantime, the commission signaled that it intends on January 14 to ask for a speedy environmental study examining

how LAX's parallel northern runways should be reconfigured. Environmental reports typically take 18 to 24 months to complete. To hurry along construction of a new runway, the commission might agree to hire contractors and designers while the environmental study takes place, rather than wait until a final report is released, according to the airport commission president. In the short term, however, airport staff will study whether improved safety lights and radar systems should be installed at the northern runways, and whether more air traffic controllers should be hired at the LAX tower. The Federal Aviation Administration has long warned LAX to reconfigure the northern runways, arguing that improving airfield geometry would heighten safety. Fifty-five runway incursions have been reported at LAX since 2001, eight of which occurred during the 2007 fiscal year that ended on September 30, according to the FAA. The most serious of those incidents was reported August 16, when two jetliners came within 37 feet of each other in the northern airfield at LAX.

Source: http://www.dailybreeze.com/ci_7748040

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *December 18, Winston Salem Journal* – (North Carolina) **Crop loss to be huge.** North Carolina's crop economy will lose more than half a billion dollars in 2007 because of a drought labeled the worst in the state's recorded history, according to a state report released yesterday. The preliminary estimates prepared for the state's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services found that soybean farmers suffered the biggest loss with about \$130 million in damages. A total of \$382 million in losses will directly hit farms, and the remainder will cut into the state's related economic activity. The numbers did not count losses for the livestock, poultry and dairy industries, which have also struggled through the drought. North Carolina crops added about \$3 billion to the value of the state economy in 2006, according to state statistics.

Source:

http://www.journalnow.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WSJ/MGArticle/WSJ_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1173353901459

17. *December 18, United Press International* – (Tennessee) **Ground beef recalled in Tennessee.** The U.S. Food and Inspection Service announced a recall of approximately 102 pounds of hamburger patties and bulk ground beef due to possible contamination. The FSIS said Snapps Ferry Packing of Afton voluntarily recalled 4-pound packages of patties and various weight packages of ground beef, each bearing the establishment number "Est. 9085" with a "packed on" date of "DEC.11.07" or "DEC.12.07" when it was determined it might be contaminated with E. coli O157.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Science/2007/12/18/ground_beef_recalled_in_tennessee/7227/

18. *December 17, Associated Press* – (National) **Wheat prices top \$10 a bushel for first time.** Wheat prices rose above \$10 a bushel for the first time ever on Monday amid concerns that strong demand globally could result in a grain shortage in the U.S. next year, worsening food price inflation. U.S. wheat supplies have dwindled this year as one wheat crop after another around the world has been damaged by poor weather, most recently in Australia and Argentina. As a result, buyers have been buying up wheat at any cost. U.S. wheat exporters already have sold more than 90 percent of the 1.175 billion bushels the U.S. Department of Agriculture expects will be exported during the whole marketing year, which ends in June 2008. Wheat prices crossing the \$10 a bushel threshold will not immediately translate into a spike in retail prices for bread, cereal, cookies, and other products, experts say. This is partly because large food manufacturers typically protect themselves from price volatility with long-term supply contracts. But analysts say consumers should expect that higher wheat prices will eventually mean more expensive groceries.

Source: http://www.foxbusiness.com/article/wheat-prices-10-bushel-time_410171_44.html

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Water Sector

19. *December 17, Birmingham News* – (Alabama; Florida; Georgia) **Alabama, Florida, Georgia governors meet on water issues in Tallahassee.** Alabama's governor arrived in Tallahassee this morning and started talks with the secretary of the Interior, Florida's governor, and Georgia's governor about sharing water. The meeting is a continuation of the talks the governors and the secretary had in Washington on November 1. A historic drought has increased the urgency to resolve decades-long conflicts over water use. A "water wars" truce was mediated by the Bush administration during the November 1 meeting. It sought to boost the metro Atlanta drinking water supply and protect the drought-stricken communities and industries downstream in Alabama and Florida. The deal allowed for lower water flows on the Chattahoochee River to keep more water in Lake Lanier for Atlanta.

Source: http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2007/12/tallahassee_gov_bob_riley.html

20. *December 17, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **Power generator agrees to stricter environmental permit.** Owners of a coal-fired power plant in Somerset, Massachusetts, have agreed to limit the amount of water they draw from nearby rivers to cool their equipment and restrict hot water discharged into Mount Hope Bay, a move that will protect aquatic organisms, the U.S. Environmental Agency said in a statement released December 17. The settlement with Dominion Energy Brayton Point LLC will finally lead to implementation of EPA's 2003 permit that required the company to stop using millions of gallons of water from the bay, which lies between Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and build an alternate cooling system. During Brayton Point's cooling process, it draws up to a billion gallons of water a day from the rivers that feed the bay, then

discharges it into the bay at temperatures of up to 95 degrees. The practice caused or contributed to an 80 to 85 percent decline in fish populations in the bay, according to scientists. The EPA has issued an order that requires Brayton Point to meet the permit's environmental obligations as soon as the spring of 2012 and sets interim effluent limits and milestones that the company must meet.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/rhode_island/articles/2007/12/17/power_generator_agree_to_observe_stricter_environmental_standards/

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

21. *December 18, Newsday* – (National) **Report: Poultry workers may spread E. coli.**

Antibiotic use in poultry processing has been controversial for decades, but public health investigators at Johns Hopkins University now say workers who handle “broiler chickens” in manufacturing plants are at risk of contracting drug-resistant E. coli and spreading it in communities. The researchers estimate that workers in poultry factories in the United States are 32 times more likely to be colonized with E. coli that repels the antibiotic gentamicin than people in other lines of work. The drug is used to treat both poultry and humans. One researcher theorizes that worker exposure serves as a conduit of gentamicin-resistant E. coli to communities at large. As industry workers interact with others, resistant strains can spread exponentially, ultimately rendering the drug useless. “Many of these workers wear uniforms,” he said, which often are laundered at home and handled by other household members who can be exposed.

Source: http://www.newsday.com/news/health/ny-hscoli18q5505974dec18_0_4570226.story

22. *December 18, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Indonesia investigating suspicious bird flu cases: official.** Indonesian bird flu officials said Tuesday they were investigating several recent avian influenza deaths where the victims were believed to have not come into contact with infected poultry. “In the last three to four months, we have had four cases where the poultry in the victim’s neighborhoods tested negative for the virus,” said the head of Indonesia’s National Avian Influenza Committee. “Some 20 percent of confirmed cases in 2006 were inconclusive, meaning there was no direct contact with poultry. This year the figure has been raised to 30 percent,” he added.

Source: http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5j_7YLquWABBzev-8GzlkFFDHb_NO

Government Facilities Sector

23. *December 17, KCEN 6 Temple* – (Texas) **Fort Hood elementary school evacuated.**

Clear Creek Elementary School was evacuated Monday morning after a carbon monoxide leak. Four adults and 14 children have been taken to the hospital.

Source: <http://www.kcentv.com/news/c-article.php?cid=1&nid=14504>

Emergency Services Sector

24. *December 18, Associated Press* – (New York) **Report: NY emergency radio network fails first major test.** A \$2 billion radio network intended to connect emergency responders throughout New York failed its first major test, a newspaper reported Tuesday. The city of Buffalo chose to opt out of the system following what officials said were problems so severe that radios did not work in about half of the state's second largest city, the New York Times reported. "West of the center of the city we had zero reception," said the Buffalo fire commissioner. In the areas that did receive reception, he said, "it sounded like a guy was talking in a tin can." M/A-Com, a division of Tyco International, was awarded the contract to build an improved network of wireless transmission towers to allow the state's police, fire, and emergency personnel to communicate. Under the current system, a good portion of the state is unreachable, and fire and police cannot communicate with each other.
Source: http://www.greenwichtime.com/news/local/newyork/ny-bc-ny--stateradionetwork1218dec18,0,2665357.story?coll=ny_news_local_newyork_head_1
25. *December 17, Tennessean* – (Tennessee) **Emergency translation service sits idle.** Although Sumner County's Emergency 911 Board is paying \$100 a month to provide for language translation services for emergency responders, the director says the service is going largely unused. The program, implemented about three months ago, makes it possible for dispatchers, police officers, or other emergency responders dealing with a non-English speaking person to call translators fluent in almost every language. The county commission appoints the E-911 board, which provides the service. The state E-911 Board collects 50 cents from each residential line and \$1 from business and cell phone lines and divides the funds to county agencies, mainly for the purchase of equipment. However, the director of Sumner County's Emergency 911 Board contends that Sumner's police officers are not using the service. The director believes the service is important, but he wants to make the system easier to use.
Source: <http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071217/COUNTY08/712170347>
26. *December 17, United Press International* – (National) **Marines train for HAZMAT response.** U.S. Marines at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, recently underwent hazardous-material training in an effort to better prepare for an emergency response. The Marines of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defense Platoon, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group took part in a Marine Air Ground Task Force CBRN Consequence Management course, the U.S. Marine Corps reported. "HAZMAT incidents occur almost daily," a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear defense training and maintenance specialist with Marine air ground task force CBRN, said in a statement. "These incidents increase the importance of properly training men and women in how to react and properly handle a HAZMAT situation when it occurs." Officials say the training focused on domestic response with localized scenarios where hazardous materials are released and the efficacy of a HAZMAT

response is evaluated. The training consisted of three main phases including equipment orientation and maintenance, the HAZMAT phase, and practical application.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/International_Security/Emerging_Threats/Briefing/2007/12/17/marines_train_for_hazmat_response/7622/

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Information Technology

27. *December 18, Security Products* – (National) **Upcoming report will help protect businesses against identity theft, fraud.** With the holiday shopping season in full swing, banks, card issuers, and retailers, among others, are mindful of the dangers of identity theft and the importance of protecting their customers' personal financial data. A report coming in January will help businesses and other organizations arm themselves from the theft and fraudulent use of such information. The report is being prepared by the Identity Theft Prevention and Identity Management Standards Panel (IDSP). Sponsored by the American National Standards Institute and the Better Business Bureau and spearheaded by nine leading companies, the panel has spent the past year defining a set of cross-sector standards and best practices to address this critical issue. "The IDSP has brought together a diverse group of public and private sector interests to identify guidelines and standards-based solutions that can be used to address this critical marketplace problem 365 days per year," said the panel's director. The panel's collective findings and recommendations will be issued on January 24. The IDSP will host a webinar that day to formally announce the release of the report and engage key analysts and industry leaders in a roundtable discussion of the panel's findings. For more information about the IDSP, visit www.ansi.org/idsp. Source: <http://www.secproonline.com/articles/56866/>

28. *December 17, Computerworld* – (Ohio) **Ohio e-voting system security criticized in new state report.** E-voting in Ohio faces a host of potential security, equipment, and process changes following the release of an 86-page report that criticizes the existing e-voting systems used in the state. The report concludes that security shortcomings in Ohio's e-voting systems are a continuing danger to the accuracy of elections there. The study was done at the request of Ohio's secretary of state, who is in charge of the state's elections. Between October 5 and December 7, teams of academic researchers, accredited e-voting system testing labs, and scientists evaluated the state's existing hardware and software and made recommendations for improvements. The stakes are big for Ohio, which faces two key elections next year -- a March 4 primary election, and the November 4 general election. "The findings of the various scientists engaged by Project EVEREST are disturbing," the report states. EVEREST is short for Evaluation & Validation of Election-Related Equipment, Standards & Testing. The main problem, according to the report, is that while security and privacy standards generally exist for critical technology systems, "unfortunately ... the computer-based voting systems in use in Ohio do not meet computer industry security standards and are susceptible to breaches of security that may jeopardize the integrity of the voting process." The report is available in PDF form at: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/info/EVEREST/00->

[SecretarysEVERESTExecutiveReport.pdf](#).

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9053326&source=rss_news10

29. *December 17, United Press International* – (International) **U.K. Olympic teams hacked from China.** Chinese hackers have penetrated the Internet server used by the British Olympic canoeing team, who suspect the aim was to steal performance data to help rivals. The U.S. Olympic Committee told United Press International it was unaware of any similar attempts against American teams. Internet servers used by the British Canoe Union were penetrated in mid-October, a spokeswoman told UPI. “Our IT security consultants traced the origination (of the attacks) to China,” she said. The spokeswoman said that no data was stolen from the server during the attack, first reported Friday by the Times of London. She said while the union did not know exactly what the hackers were after, the suspicion was that they were attempting to steal performance data of the kind that might be useful to the team’s competitors. “None of our athlete information is stored on our Internet servers, for exactly that reason,” she said, adding that security had been beefed up on the group’s Web site. A U.S. Olympic Committee spokesman told UPI, “We are not aware of any entities or individuals trying to hack into our system.” He added that the committee was “happy” with its security arrangements. “We go to great lengths to guard against any compromise of our systems. We are aware of the dangers and we have a forward-looking plan to deal with them,” he said.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/International_Security/Emerging_Threats/Briefing/2007/12/17/uk_olympic_teams_hacked_from_china/6128/

30. *December 17, Network World* – (National) **Successful phishing attacks up, online survey shows.** A Gartner survey shows phishing attacks against consumers in the United States have been more successful this year than last. The good news is that consumers have been able to recover their losses from phishing a bit more than they did in the past. An online survey of 4,500 adults (said to be representative of the U.S. population) showed 3.3 percent of them lost money because of a phishing attack, compared with 2.3 percent who lost money in 2006 or 2.9 percent in 2005, according to Gartner. The average dollar loss per incident declined this year to \$886 from \$1,244 on average in 2006. But because there were more victims, the overall loss to phishing was higher. By extrapolating the numbers out to the entire U.S. population, Gartner says it appears that 3.6 million adults lost \$3.2 billion to phishing attacks in the 12 months ending in August 2007. The good news is that these phishing victims are recovering the lost money more often than they did in the past, thanks to greater help from banks and PayPal, said a Gartner analyst. “There were more victims but they’re getting more of their money back.” Pulling out the numbers to represent the United States as a whole, the Gartner survey shows some 1.6 million adults recovered about 64 percent of their losses in 2007, up from 54 percent that the 1.5 million adults recovered in 2006. PayPal and eBay continue to be “the most-spoofed brands,” the Gartner survey says. Another trend seen is that attackers are more eager to get hold of debit and check cards than

credit cards because there are fewer protections for them and they are harder to catch, said the Gartner analyst.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2007/121707-successful-phishing.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

31. *December 18, Associated Press* – (National) **Cell phone spending surpasses land lines.** 2007 is likely to be the first calendar year in which U.S. households spend more on cell phone services than on land line service, industry and government officials say. The most recent government data show that households spent \$524, on average, on cell phone bills in 2006, compared with \$542 for residential and pay-phone services. By now, though, consumers almost certainly spend more on their cell phone bills, several telecom industry analysts and officials said. As recently as 2001, U.S. households spent three times as much on residential phone services as they did on cell phones. But the expansion of wireless networks has made cell phones more convenient, and a wider menu of services, including text messaging, video, and music, has made it easier for consumers to spend money via their cell phone. While there are roughly 170 million land lines in use nationwide, industry officials estimate there are close to 250 million cell phones. (These figures include residential and corporate use.)

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gObDqSSc9ZyeCqkzMiqFjJ9SnFJwD8TJL9G82>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

32. *December 16, National Terror Alert* – (California) **Sacramento - License plate scans beef up mall security during holidays.** Two new high-tech security cameras are now on patrol at Arden Fair Mall in Sacramento. The cameras were paid for by a U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant to help keep a close watch on all the comings and goings at the busy shopping hub. “We’ll be able to scan plates as we go down each aisle and find stolen cars or vehicles with a felony warrant,” said the mall’s security manager. He added that the information from the cameras would only be shared with Sacramento Police and, in those cases, only plate information would be passed on to law enforcement. Other personal information about shoppers, their vehicles, or their purchases would not be included.

Source: <http://www.nationalterroralert.com/updates/2007/12/16/sacramento-license-plate-scans-beef-up-mall-security-during-holidays/>

National Monuments & Icons Sector

33. *December 17, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Reid fails to block coal plants at Great Basin National Park.** The Senate Majority Leader failed to get language into a year-end spending bill that could have blocked new coal plants in Nevada by boosting air quality requirements at Great Basin National Park. Instead the bill, which is being considered by the House on Monday and expected before the Senate later this week, would require the Government Accountability Office to study whether air quality requirements at Great Basin are adequate. Changing Great Basin from a Class II to a Class I air quality protection area - the most protective - would probably have blocked two coal-fired plants planned near Ely. Some 70 miles west near Ely, Sierra Pacific Resources is planning a 1,500 megawatt plant. A third coal-fired plant, a 750-megawatt project planned by Sith Global Power farther south near Mesquite, would probably not have been affected. The senator had vowed to do everything he could to block the coal plants, but resistance from members of the House and Senate Appropriations committees forced him to abandon his initial plan. Nonetheless, he cast the call for GAO study as a victory. Source:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/nevada/2007/dec/17/121710737.html>

Dams Sector

34. *December 18, Daily Herald* – (Illinois) **Flood control plan gains support.** Local, county, state, and federal officials renewed support Monday for a proposed forest preserve expansion in Buffalo Grove, Illinois, that could aid flood control efforts on the Des Plaines River. The project would add 250 acres of prairie and wetlands to Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve. Proponents are passionate about the proposal because a new, 30-acre reservoir included in the plan would allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to build a new levee on the Des Plaines River. The new levee, dubbed Levee 37, would be built on the river between Palatine Road and Euclid Avenue. It could take two years to build and cost \$15 million to \$20 million, representatives from the Corps said. Source: <http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=97372&src=3>
35. *December 17, Bakersfield Californian* – (California) **Plan for evacuation in dam failure to surface.** In California, a preliminary flooding evacuation plan for the Kern River Valley and Bakersfield will be presented at the Kern County supervisors' meeting on December 17. The plan, crafted by the Kern County Fire Department and county Office of Emergency Services, is a common-sense shot at getting people out of the way of flood waters in the event of a catastrophic failure of the Isabella Lake dam. Such a collapse is remote right now, say sources with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as the water level is at 19 percent of Isabella Lake's capacity. The report is based on a 1970s time-lapse study of when floodwaters would hit the town of Lake Isabella and when they would sweep into Bakersfield. A more detailed, current inundation study is

expected to be finalized early next year. Meanwhile, the discussion also will center on possible ways to alert people in the flood's path about a dam collapse. The options include installing a chain of 28 sirens down the Kern River Canyon to Stockdale Highway and developing alert messages that can be pushed to residents through cell phones, land-line telephones, television, and e-mail.

Source: <http://www.bakersfield.com/102/story/313565.html>

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*** With December 24 being announced as a Federal Holiday there will not be a DHS Daily Report disseminated on Monday December 24. The weekend report will be disseminated on December 26.**

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